

43. PROPOSED FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASE OFFERS, SUBMERGED LANDS, "SANCTUARY AREA", SANTA BARBARA COUNTY - W.O. 1835.2.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that a letter be written to the Secretary of the Interior, asking that the Federal Government withhold offering oil and gas leases off the Santa Barbara County coastline in the "sanctuary area", as drilling in that area could be of considerable detriment to the "sanctuary". Unless the Federal Government will cooperate in protecting the area, the State of California, in the event oil was found, might find it necessary to offer oil and gas leases in the area in order to offset possible drainage of State lands. This could be detrimental to the original purposes for which the sanctuary was established. It was suggested that the State Lands Commission assume leadership and try to work out an arrangement with the Department of the Interior for the protection of the sanctuary area offshore Santa Barbara.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON, DULY SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, A RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED DIRECTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO WRITE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, STEWART L. UDALL, IN THE NAME OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION, AND ASK HIM TO LEND HIS COOPERATION TO THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BY WITHHOLDING ANY FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASE OFFERS IN THE AREA OFF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COASTLINE "SANCTUARY AREA", SO AS TO ASSURE PROTECTION OF THIS HIGHLY PRIZED AREA, AS ANY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA BEYOND THE THREE-MILE LIMIT, WHICH THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT RECENTLY RULED AS BEING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE DETRIMENT TO THE "SANCTUARY".